Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 XMB-02 AID-05 EUR-12
AGRE-00 /094 W
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R 281007Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0768
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MANILA 15064

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEAN, E
SUBJECT: US/ASEAN MINISTERIAL -- MFA REACTION

1. SUMMARY. THE GOP/MFA CONSIDERS THE US/ASEAN MINISTERIAL AN UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS, AND THE RESULTS EXCEEDED ASEAN EXPECTATIONS. THE TWO AMBASSADORS MANALO WERE ENTHUSIASTIC AND POSITIVE IN THEIR DEBRIEFING OF EMBOFFS. MOST SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENT WAS THE DEEPENING AND WIDENING OF THE CONSULTATIVE PROCESS. ASEAN DELEGATIONS WERE GREATLY IMPRESSED WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF FIVE US CABINET SECRETARIES, THEIR RECEPTIVITY AND THEIR WILLINGNESS TO SEEK WAYS OF INTENSIFYING US/ASEAN COOPERATION. THEY PARTICULARLY APPRECIATED SECRETARY VANCE'S POLITICAL WILL AND HIS PLEDGE ON COMMON FUND NEGOTIATIONS. AMBASSADOR ARMANDO MANALO BELIEVES THE PACE AND MOMENTUM SHOULD BE SPEEDED UP IN ORDER TO COUNTER A SOVIET THREAT TO ASEAN. ASEAN DELEGATES WERE TAKEN ABACK BY WHAT THEY CONSIDERED UNSYMPATHETIC ATTITUDE OF SENATE LEADERS, BUT CAME AWAY CONFIDENTIAL

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WITH A BETTER APPRECIATION OF THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CONGRESS IN U.S. FOREIGN POLICY. END SUMMARY.

2. AMBASSADOR ARMANDO MANALO, ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS, AND AMBASSADOR ROSARIO MANALO,DG OF ASEAN NATIONAL SECRETARIAT, DEBRIEFED EMBOFFS AUGUST 25 ON THE RECENT US/ASEAN MINISTERIAL. THEY STATED CATE-

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GORICALLY THAT THE MEETING EXCEEDED THEIR EXPECTATIONS, INCLUDING THOSE OF THE DOUBTING THAIS, BUT POINTED OUT THAT THEY WENT WITH ONLY REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS.

3. MOST SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENT WAS THE WIDENING AND DEEPENING OF THE CONSULTATIVE PROCESS. ASEAN MINISTERS FELT THAT THEY WERE RECEIVED WARMLY AND EAGERLY BY THEIR AMERICAN COUNTERPARTS, WHO WERE READY TO LISTEN AND SEEK WAYS TO INTENSIFY US/ASEAN COOPERATION. THEY ALSO WELCOMED OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE THEIR CASE TO SENATE AND HOUSE REPRESENTATIVES, TO THE PRESS, TO U.S. BUSINESS, AND TO ACADEMIA.

4. MRS. MANALO STATED THAT THE US/ASEAN CONSULTATIONS DID NOT GET OFF TO A GOOD START, SINCE THE MEETING WITH THE SENATORS WAS NOT ENTIRELY SATISFACTORY TO THEM. THE ASEAN DELEGATES FELT THAT SOME SENATORS -- MENTIONING CHURCH, JAVITS AND ROTH -- WERE UNSYMPATHETIC TO ASEAN ASPIRATIONS. JAVITS, THEY SAID, WAS SKEPTICAL OF THE INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS BUT LEFT FOR A VOTE BEFORE WODJOJO COULD MAKE WHAT MRS. MANALO BELIEVED WAS A THOUGHTFUL AND PERSUASIVE PRESENTATION. CHURCH WAS PARTICULARLY "TOUGH" ON SUGAR.

5. AT THIS POINT EMBOFF POINTED OUT THAT ASEAN SHOULD NOT ASK CHURCH TO COMMIT POLITICAL SUICIDE WITH HIS CONFIDENTIAL

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SUGAR BEET GROWERS. HE REMINDED THE MANALOS OF THE EFFECTIVE PHILIPPINE SUGAR LOBBY IN THE PAST AND SUGGESTED THAT THE PHILIPPINES OUGHT TO PURSUE ITS OBJECTIVES IN MORE SOPHISTICATED POLITICAL MANNER.

6. MEETING NEXT MORNING WITH HOUSE REPRESENTATIVES WAS A DECIDED CHANGE FROM THAT WITH THE SENATORS. HOUSE MEMBERS SHOWED THEMSELVES RECEPTIVE AND WILLING LISTENERS. MRS. MANALO FELT THAT THE MEETING WAS ONLY BEGINNING TO WARM UP AND BECOME USEFUL WHEN IT HAD TO END SO THAT THE MINISTERIAL ITSELF COULD BEGIN AT 10 O'CLOCK. SHE THOUGHT THAT THE ONLY IMPROVEMENT NEEDED WAS MORE TIME -- BOTH FOR THE CONGRESSIONAL MEETINGS AND THE MINISTERIAL PROPER.

7. AMBASSADOR ARMANDO MANALO ASKED WHETHER THE USG PURPOSELY SCHEDULED THE CONGRESSIONAL SESSIONS AHEAD OF THE MINISTERIAL SO AS TO DEFLATE ASEAN EXPECTATIONS. "AFTER THAT SENATE MEETING, EVERYTHING WAS UPHILL (SIC)". EMBOFF REPLIED THAT THE CONGRESSIONAL SESSIONS COULD NOT BE SCHEDULED ON FRIDAY OR SATURDAY, AND THEY HAD TO TAKE PLACE EITHER BEFORE THE MINISTERIAL OR AFTER THE

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WEEKEND. THERE WAS NO PREMEDITATION, BUT WE WERE HAPPY IT WORKED OUT THE WAY IT DID. WE OUGHT TO REMEMBER THIS THE NEXT TIME; OTHERWISE, THE SENATE MEETING MIGHT HAVE NEGATED THE POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE AND RESULTS OF THE MINISTERIAL.

8. AMBASSADOR MANALO COMMENTED ON THE ROLE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF CONGRESS IN FOREIGN POLICY, PARTICULARLY VIS-A-VIS THE EXECUTIVE. "WE RECOGNIZE THE POLITICAL REALITIES AND WE WILL HAVE TO LIVE WITH THEM."

9. MRS. MANALO SAID THAT SECRETARY VANCE'S PERFORMANCE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 MANILA 15064

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT PARA 11)

WAS SUPERB AND HIS OPENING SPEECH SET THE POSITIVE TONE FOR THE MINISTERIAL. VANCE PLAYED A DECISIVE ROLE, AND BOTH MANALOS APPRECIATED THE POLITICAL WILL WHICH HE EXERCISED. MRS. MANALO MENTIONED SPECIFICALLY THE PLEDGE FOR EARLY CONCLUSION OF COMMON FUND NEGOTIATIONS. SHE RELATED WITH GUSTO HOW SHE HAD HERSELF INTRODUCED TO THE SECRETARY AT THE U.S. DINNER AND THEN OBTAINED THE SECRETARY'S DECISION ON PUTTING THE WORDS "EARLY" AND "AND" IN THE COMMON FUND SENTENCE IN THE JOINT PRESS STATEMENT.

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10. ASKED ABOUT THE CURRENT PACE OF US/ASEAN COOPERATIONS, MRS. MANALO SAID THAT IT WAS FINE, BUT HER HUSBAND INTERJECTED IMMEDIATELY THAT IT SHOULD BE FASTER. HE SAID THE UNITED STATES HAS TO CATCH UP. THE SOVIET UNION WAS ACTIVELY WOOING ASEAN, AND IT WAS THE PRIMARY ENEMY. PRC WAS TOO PREOCCUPIED WITH ITS QUARREL
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WITH THE SRV.

11. MRS. MANALO POINTED OUT THAT THE MESSAGE WHICH ASEAN SENT OUT FROM THE MEETING WAS MEANT FOR THE SOVIET UNION AND THE PRC. THAT ASEAN HAD CHOSEN THE AMERICAN UMBRELLA, AND "THEY SHOULD KEEP OUT." MALAYSIANS AND THAIS AGREE, BUT BECAUSE THEY ARE ON THE FRONTLINE, THEY ONLY WISHED "WE HAD NOT SAID IT SO STRONGLY." MURPHY

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